

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

2009 Recommendations for Legislative and Policy Reform

Kentucky Revised Statute 620.320(5) requires the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to evaluate and make annual recommendations to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the laws of the Commonwealth and the practices, policies and procedures within the Commonwealth that affect permanence for children in out-of-home placement.

Ensure that children, who are of appropriate age, are receiving independent living skills training and options.

- ☞ Redefine “independent living” in KRS 600.020(30) to mean the development of a plan for independent living, including skills necessary to enable a committed child to establish independent living arrangements. This shall include the development of an independent living plan to be presented to, and approved by, the court prior to when a child ages out of commitment.
- ☞ Revise KRS 620.140 relating to the dispositional alternatives for a dependent, neglected or abused child in order to extend the time within which a child could elect to participate in state or federal educational programs or obtain Cabinet of Health and Family Services assistance in establishing independent living arrangements, including reinstatement of commitment, to 12 months after the child has attained the age of 18.

Meet the educational needs of children.

- ☞ Amend KRS 620.250(1) to require that the most recent educational record of the child be supplied by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and obtained by the Cabinet via any electronic portal or system maintained by the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. This information could include, but not be limited to, the child’s grades, absences, homework, suspension, expulsion, detention or other disciplinary measures taken by the school, as well as any individual education plan relating to the child.

Support the statewide expansion of Family Court.

- ☞ While the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards recognize that the current economic downturn directly impacts the state budget, the CFCRB would like to encourage the Chief Justice of Kentucky, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Kentucky General Assembly to make the expansion of Family Court into all 120 Kentucky counties a high priority as funds become available.

